Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A contrast agent of formula I

   V - L - R (I)

   where V is an organic group having binding affinity for an angiotensin II receptor site **and is Losartan, Valsartan, Candesartan or Eprosartan**, L is a linear or branched amino acid-comprising biomodifier or linker moiety **comprising 1-40 amino-acid residues and optionally comprising one or more dicarboxylic acid units, ethyleneglycol units or PEG components or combinations thereof, provided that a leucine group is linked directly to the group V** and R is a reporter moiety detectable in *in vivo* imaging of a human or animal body**, and where the reporter moiety comprises a metal entity M, then R is Y_1M where Y_1 is a chelating agent**.

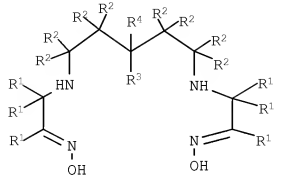
2. Cancelled

3. Cancelled

4. (Currently amended) A contrast agent according to claim 1 where L ~~additionally~~ comprises one or more ~~dicarboxylic acid units, ethyleneglycol units or PEG-like components or combinations of the above and preferably comprises one or more diglycolyl~~ diglycolyl, glycolyl, glutaryl or succinyl units or combinations thereof.

5. (Previously presented) A contrast agent according to claim 1 where L is branched.

6. (Previously presented) A contrast agent according to claim 1 where the chelating agent is of formula II



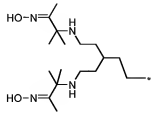
(II)

where:

each R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 is independently an R group;

each R group is independently H or $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkyl, $C_{3\text{-}10}$ alkylaryl, $C_{2\text{-}10}$ alkoxyalkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ hydroxyalkyl, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ alkylamine, $C_{1\text{-}10}$ fluoroalkyl, or 2 or more R groups, together with the atoms to which they are attached form a carbocyclic, heterocyclic, saturated or unsaturated ring.

7. (Currently amended) A contrast agent according to claim 1 where the chelating agent is of formula



(c)

wherein the asterix * denotes an amine group.

8. (Previously presented) A contrast agent according to claim 1 characterised in that it is ^{99m}Tc (Losartan-Leu-diglycolyl-cPn216) , ^{99m}Tc (Losartan-Leu-Gly-diglycolyl-cPn216), ^{99m}Tc (Losartan-Leu-β-Ala-diglycolyl-cPn216) or ^{99m}Tc (Losartan-Leu-Lys(Propionyl-PEG(12)-Ac)-Diglycoloyl-cPn216).

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of general formula I **of claim 1** or a salt thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, excipients or diluents for use in enhancing image contrast in *in vivo* imaging.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of generating enhanced images of a human or animal body previously administered with a contrast agent composition comprising a compound as defined by formula I **of claim 1**, which method comprises generating an image of at least part of said body.

11. (Currently Amended) A kit for the preparation of a radiopharmaceutical composition of formula I **of claim 1** comprising a ligand-chelate conjugate and a reducing agent.

12.(New) A contrast agent according to claim 1 where L comprises 1-20 amino-acid residues.

13.(New) A contrast agent according to claim 12 where L comprises 1-10 amino-acid residues.

14.(New) A contrast agent according to claim 13 where L comprises 1-5 amino-acid residues.

15.(New) A contrast agent according to claim 4 where L comprises a diglycolyl unit.